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might be started. Noon is a popular time for these gatherings or just after the day's work is done. A buri-producing guhang is rarely without flies, bees and thirsty drinkers looking for a few "drinks on the cuff." At night the men may gather at the buri by the light of the lamp. Guhang trees are a sort of "rural poolhall" in Caticugan.

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Guhang lihis are always made by men. This is unusual since most of the other lihis in Caticugan, particularly in regard to agriculture, are held by women. However, there is a fairly general feeling among many of the barriofolk that it is not wise to permit a woman to ascend a guhang buri since she might contaminate it--especially if she is menstruating. Some believe a menstruating woman might cause the guhang to become malodorous or the sap to stop flowing. Other reasons why few women climb a buri are well summed up by this comment of one woman.

> There is nothing wrong if women climb guhang trees, only it is too dangerous for women to climb. Our skirt might be tangled in the thorns [of the tree] and there is danger of falling. We have a new guhang and just the other day I climbed our guhang because somebody came to buy some guhang and my son and my husband were out working in the field. Our guhang is quite short and nothing happened to the guhang [because she climbed the tree].

Another woman said:

> I have climbed our guhang many times. Others said that it is not good for women to climb the guhang for the guhang might become malodorous. But I do not believe in this because the tuba [guhang] of the guhang [buri] that I have climbed many times did not become malodorous.

Vegetables and Other Garden Crops

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Vegetables approximate guhang as the most important source of cash income for the majority of families in Caticugan. The majority of barriofolk have a small home garden, plagued by insects, farmyard animals and lack of care. The gardens are rarely fenced. A number of families plant vegetables mainly for sale in the poblacion. Gardens are usually tended by women, who also sell the vegetables. In a recent descriptive account of a barrio in Bulacan province, Luzon, this fact is stated indirectly:

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> At Anilao [the name of the barrio] day begins in the night's small hours, when the men rise to go fishing...When the men return home at dawn, the women are up, breakfast has long been ready...All morning the men sleep, while the women work the vegetable gardens or gather grass to sell to rig drivers.71

Nearly every morning a few women from Caticugan could be seen carrying vegetables to sell to the poblacion.

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Vegetable gardens often are planted on the canal banks in Caticugan. This location is considered desirable because the ground is usually moist and better drained during the rainy season when many gardens die of flooding. Pieces of thorny bamboo are put in the ground to support stringbeans, gourds and squashes. A few women hang strings of seaweed on the bamboo supports of the gourds and squashes; these are said to repel insects.

71"Life in Barrio Anilao," Philippines Free Press, XLIV, No. 40 (October 3, 1953), p. 28. This unsigned article consists mainly of photographs that present some realistic scenes of barrio life. Underlining in quotation by writer.

One could write a surprisingly adequate account of barrio life by describing only the activities that occur along Siaton River. The barriofolk take their morning baths at the river, while the children play games along the sandy banks. A man waters and washes his carabaos and horses; a small boy turns over stones, looking for fish to "shoot" with his "gun." Later the women come to fetch water in bamboo tubes, or to beat the family wash on flat stones as they gossip. A man comes to the bank to see if his line caught an eel during the night; a group of men clean a slaughtered pig or goat for a wedding or funeral. A raft of green bamboos, cut upstream, floats seaward. Where the banks are high there may be tiny gardens of green onions, eggplants and tomatoes.

In the afternoon a woman comes to the river to get a lagit stone, or moss for a lihi for a new house a family is building. Women return from the poblacion where they have sold their vegetables. Several men wade across the river, carrying a coffin to the poblacion church for the final rites. Children ford the river, as they return from the elementary school. In the evening, by the light of the moon, young girls search wet stones for snails. Later, men return from an evening of drinking and talking with friends in the poblacion guhang stalls. Siaton River, shallow and quiet during the dry season, turbulent and swift during the rainy season, is truly the "life stream" of Caticugan.